



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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Happy 2014! I'm honored to serve this DX Club as your new President. It should be a great year for DX'ing with several rare activations planned in the coming months; let's keep our fingers crossed for the predicted Cycle 24 double peak.

With the holiday rush and a kitchen remodel there wasn't much time for radio but I did carve out a few minutes on Christmas Eve to turn on the radio and work a ZS at 4:02PM (12:02 Christmas Day) and a JL on Dec 31 who was celebrating New Year's Day in the Land of the Rising Sun. Not rare DX but fulfilling nevertheless.

We hope to have some great programs to fill the meeting dates and we already have a gem for January. You won't want to miss Tom KG4CUY's informative and entertaining program on Warren KJ4RAQ's planning, modeling, and execution of a 10m antenna project. Join us at the PoBoy Factory for our first post-holiday meeting.

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Speaking of PoBoy Factory, we're still in the hunt for that elusive meeting place that meets a multitude of criteria: low price, good food, open till 9PM, private meeting room, and low noise level. I urge each of you to embark on a scouting mission. Take your XYL to dinner. You don't have to tell her you're looking for a club meeting location. We would like to settle on a place that everyone can afford and enjoy.

73 es c u,

Mark

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

January Program: 10m Antenna Decisions

The inaugural 2014 meeting of NADXC will be held at the Po' Boy Factory. Our new vice president Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ has negotiated with the chef a "less-fried" menu, so we expect to see everyone there.

Speaking of Warren, the program is about one of his antennas, though through a strange twist the presentation will be given by Tom Duncan, KG4CUY. The "which antenna is best for me" decision process is at the heart of this exposé.

See you between 5:30 and 6:00 pm for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and the program no later than 7:30.



December Meeting Minutes

By Tom Schwinn, W4NBS

The following are the minutes from the NADXC Meeting/Christmas party held 10 December, 2013. The meeting was held at Landry's Restaurant, Huntsville, AL.

There were 24 club members and 14 guests in attendance.

As this was the Christmas meeting, formal business was kept to a minimum.

The new slate of officers for 2014 was installed as follows:

President-Mark Brown, N4BCD

Vice President-Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ

Secretary/Treasurer-Bill Bathgate-KD8IGK

The title of the NADXC "DXer of the Year" was awarded to Tom Duncan, KG4CUY.

Finally, several prizes were handed out to some of the lucky attendees via a random drawing such as a DVM and a copy of the ARRL Antenna Handbook.

My thanks to Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, for providing the above information since I was unable to attend this meeting.

Old Business:

The following sad note was inadvertently omitted from the November meeting minutes:

Johnny Winter, KR4F, informed the membership that Josh Kelly, N4VB, had recently become an SK. Members might recall that Josh's XYL, Kelly, K4CK became an SK in September, 2011 and her call is now held by their son, Matt.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and good DX.

73,

Tom Schwinn, W4NBS

An Antenna Tale

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

My current low-band antenna is a 130' doublet fed in the center with ladderline at about 50' to a good tuner. I installed it within a week of moving to our new hilltop QTH and it's been a solid performer on 80 & 40 meters and of course it's too short for 160. The three trees available to support this antenna define it's direction as broadside to Europe (about 40 degrees).

The antenna has been pleasant surprise and most recently a real disappointment. Last month it was responsible for getting the VU7 DXpedition in the log on 40m so it was heartbreaking the other night when I couldn't bust a pile-up to Utah to work W1AW/7 !

I knew all along that antenna had a narrowed lobes broadside but figured at 50' it would have some radiation off the sides and ends. Not enough for a Utah pile-up though.

Shamefully admitted temporary defeat to my co-workers / fellow DX'ers and I pondered it for a day. The temperatures haven't been conducive for putting up even a temporary antenna so I arrived home the following evening with just enough daylight remaining to drop the NE end of the doublet to about 5 feet off the driveway.

After dinner there was W1AW/7 louder than the night before. Time to burn a hole in the driveway so I fired up the amp. Got him on the third call.

This experience has reinforced the adage that one cannot have too many antennas. When the weather warms a bit it's time to get more wire in the air.

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK
At-large directors	Chuck Lewis, N4NM Tom Duncan, KG4CUY Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Webmaster	Mike Werner, KF4BOG

The LongPath Staff

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Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

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Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Tom Schwinn, W4NBS, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

ARRL Centennial Special Event

By Tom Schwinn, W4NBS

It looks like the W1AW Special Event for 2014 is off to a great start. However, there are still questions arising about when the various states will be on the air and where can they be found.

Here are some links that might help answer these questions:

This first link is the complete schedule for 2014 showing when each state will be hosting the W1AW call sign. So far, it has been relatively easy to find these Special Event stations on the air because they are proving to be quite popular and they are generating pile-ups. It would be helpful if folks would print this schedule and keep it near their rig so they wouldn't need to keep referring to the ARRL website.

There is another way to find if one of these stations is active, though. By using a DX spotting program or a website such as DXSummit, all one needs to do is to type in W1AW/X in the Search feature (the X represents the call area of the state currently using the W1AW call sign).

For example, for the week starting 8 January, 2014, Utah and South Carolina stations will be using the W1AW call sign. If you are looking for one of these stations, using the Search function of DXSummit or some other spotting program, type in W1AW/4 to find an active South Carolina station or W1AW/7 to find an active Utah station.

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/On%20the%20Air/Copy%20of%202014CentennialQSOCalendar13Dec.pdf>

This next link is to the ARRL website where one will be able to find a complete description and some FAQ's regarding this special event.

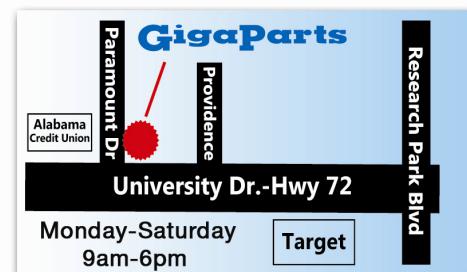
http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#Operating_Period

This e-mail has been sent out to all the clubs in Alabama and has been posted on the Alabama Section website for folks that are not in clubs.

73, Tom Schwinn, W4NBS



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DX Contests for January

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

DARC 10 Meter Contest, (CW/SSB), 10 meters

Jan 12, 0900Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial No., DOK code

See page 81, Jan QST and www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest

LZ Open Championship, (CW), 80 & 40 meters

Jan 18, 0000Z to 0400Z

Exchange: S.N. + last S.N. rcvd (6 digits total)

See page 81, Jan QST and www.lzopen.com

HA DX Contest, (CW/SSB), 160-10 meters

Jan 18, 1200Z to Jan 19, 1200Z

Exchange: RST + S.N.

See page 81, Jan QST and www.hadx.com

CQWW 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Jan 24, 2200Z to Jan 26, 2200Z

Exchange: RST plus State/Province/

DXCC entity

See page 81, Jan. QST and www.CQ160.com

REF French Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Jan 25, 0600Z to Jan 6, 1800Z

Exchange: RST plus serial no. (F stns. give Dept. ID)

See page 81, Jan. QST and www.concours.ref-union.org/contest

BARTG RTTY Sprint, (DIG), 80 -10 meters

Jan 25. 1200Z to Jan 25 1200Z

Exchange: Serial no.

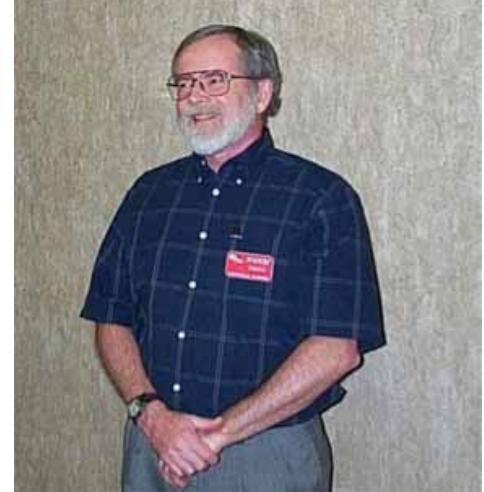
See: page 81, Jan. QST & www.bartg.org/uk

UBA (Belgium) Contest (SSB), 80-10 meters

Jan 25, 1300Z to Jan 26, 1300Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial no.; ON sends province

See page 81, Jan. QST and www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules



OTHERS:

WAB Top Band Phone Contest,

Jan. 25, 1900Z – 2300Z

Mexico RTTY International Contest,

1800Z, Feb 1 to 1759Z, Feb 2

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest,

0000Z, Feb 8 to 2400Z, Feb 9

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM



From "Archie's Ham Radio Adventure", © 1986, Archie Comic Publications, Inc.